Closure of Departmental Jute purchase centres in the country

1769. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to close down 68 departmental Jute Purchase Centres in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) number of employees who will be replaced;

(d) whether the Jute Corporation of India employees have threatened to launch movement against the proposed closure; and

(e) if so, whether Government will reconsider the decision to close down these purchase centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT); (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Strike by Jute workers

1770. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goversment are aware that Jute Workers led by all Jute Workers Trade Unions have been on strike from 28th January, 1992;

(b) if so, what are their demands;

(c) what steps have been taken to settle their demands;

(d) whether there has been total loss of 10 crores worth of production daily including 25 per cent of foreign exchange earnings due to this strike; and

(e) if so, the details hereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE! MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) Workers of the jute industry in West Bengal have been on strike from 28th January, 1992 in support of their charter of demands, which include *inter-alia* increase in minimum basic pay, rate of neutralization of variable dearness allowance, house rent allowance, bonus, gratuity leave etc. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to initiate action to and the strike and restore normalcy. Hence Chief Minister, West Bengal has been requested to intervene to bring about a settlement to resolve the strike.

(d) and (e) It is estimated that a loss of production earning to Rs. 6 crore per day and loss of exports amounting to Rs. 1.2 crores per day is being suffered by the jute industry on account of the strike.

Expenditure incurred by BICL on Litigations

1771. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of amount spent on litigation by the British India Corporation Limited and/or its subsidiary companies in the past nine months alongwith number of lawyers engaged in different places;

(b) whether the Secretary of the Company is also a practising and enrolled advocate;

(c) whether the company has initiated action to take over some other private companies though it has less than 10 per cent shoreholding therein